

EXTENSION OF THE PRE-EMPTION LAWS.

MEMORIAL AND RESOLUTION

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ALABAMA,

*For an extension of the pre-emption laws.*

FEBRUARY 10, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

The memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That the wise policy of the Government of the United States in relation to the public lands, in the passage of the late pre-emption laws, has been, owing to the extraordinary pressure of the times and derangement of the currency of the country during the last five or six years, partially defeated, and many industrious, enterprising citizens deprived of the means of purchasing the homes intended to be secured by those benevolent laws.

The General Assembly further represent, that, owing to the causes above named, as well as to the great reduction, during that period, of every article of agricultural production, and of property generally, a most respectable portion of the settlers on the public lands in this State, and especially in the Cherokee purchase, have been unable to realize the advantages intended to be secured to them by the pre-emption laws of 1838 and 1840. Their settlements were consequently offered for sale, but, owing to the great scarcity of specie funds, were not sold ; they will be shortly subject to general entry, and, without the timely interposition of Congress, it is apprehended that this meritorious class of citizens will be ousted of their possessions, by another class, who are ever ready to take advantage of the necessities and misfortunes of the poor, but hardy and industrious pioneer of the west. For the reasons above set forth, the General Assembly pray your honorable bodies to extend the right of pre-emption two years, to the settlers above described, that they may be enabled to enter their lands in preference to those who may be disposed to make a general entry.

*Resolved, therefore, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to carry out the views contained in the foregoing preamble; and that his excellency the Governor cause copies of this preamble and resolution to be forwarded to them.*

A. B. MOORE,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

NATHANIEL TERRY,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved January 15, 1844:

BEN. FITZPATRICK.